

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH PROTEST PORTUGUESE BROADCASTING

1. THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN LISBON DELIVERED A NOTE OF PROTEST ON WEDNESDAY TO THE PORTUGUESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CITING INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL SPANISH AFFAIRS. THE NOTE WAS APPARETNLY A REACTION TO STATEMENTS MADE BY A FRAP (SPANISH TERRORIST GROUP) MILITANT ON PORTUGUESE TELEVISION.
 2. A CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT FROM LISBON, PUBLISHED IN THE SEPT 25 "YA", POINTED OUT THAT GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY MAKES SUCH INTERFERENCE INEVITABLE. PORTUGUESE BROADCASTS ARE EASILY PICKED UP IN SPAIN AND VICE-VERSA. IN FACT, A LISBON TELEVISION COMMENTATOR REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED YESTERDAY THAT DIEGO CARCEDO, A SPANISH REPORTER, HAD RECORDED FOR BROADCAST IN SPAIN COMMENTARIES WHICH WERE "TRULY INJURIOUS FOR OUR (PORTUGUESE) REVOLUTION?"
 3. THE "YA" ARTICLE WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THIS PROTEST WAS NOT AN INDICATION OF "GRAVE" OR "DEFINITIVE" DETERIORATION IN SPANISH/PORTUGUESE RELATIONS. THE PORTUGUESE UNOFFICIALLY ADMIT TO NOT HAVING CONTROL OVER BROADCASTERS, IT SAID, AND THAT THE FRAP STATEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN MORE OF
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A CHALLENGE TO MELO ANTUNES THAN TO FRANCO. THE REPORT ALSO

DESCRIBED THE "HARASSMENT" TO WHICH SPANISH EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND SPANISH CORRESPONDENTS WERE SUBJECT IN LISBON. IRON BARS HAVE BEEN PUT ON WINDOWS IN THE EMBASSY AFTER A BOMB EXPLOSION IN A SPANISH SCHOOL IN OPORTO AND SEVERAL BOMB "SCARES" IN LISBON.

4. PRVIOUS TO THE SURFACING OF THE PORTUGUESE TV ISSUE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN THE SPANISH MFA HAD TOLD THE CHARGE AND POL COUNSELOR THAT SPAIN MAINTAINS QUITE DECENT RELATIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE REGIME, BUT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN THAT PORTUGAL WAS IN SUCH AN ANARCHIC STATE THAT SOME SPANISH TERRORISTS HAD BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT OF NORTHERN PORTUGAL, SOMETHING WHICH OF COURSE CONCERNED THE SPANISH GOVT. IN LIKE MANNER, GIVEN THE POROUS PORTUGUESE/ SPANISH BORDER, IT WAS DIFFICULT EVEN FOR THE SPANISH GOVT TO FULLY CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES OF PORTUGUESE EXILES HERE. BUT, HE CLAIMED, THE SENSATIONALIST PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MAJOR PORTUGUESE EXILE ACTIVITY HERE SHOULD BE DISCOUNTED. YESTERDAY, ANOTHER MFA OFFICIAL TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT THE SPANISH PROTEST NOTE DID NOT INDICATE A MAJOR PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO GOVTS, ONLY THAT SPAIN COULDN'T IGNORE PORTUGUESE TELEVISION GIVING FRAP TERRORISTS ACCESS.
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